

DELL COMIC  
A DELL COMIC

10¢

NO. 2

# BUCK JONES

APRIL-JUNE





**WEB COMIC  
UNIVERSE.COM**

# WESTERN BRANDS

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ROCKING R

©

CIRCLE BARS

7

SEVENTY SIX

Y

WINE GLASS

A

FLYING A



"Hands off! This animal belongs to me!"  
From 2000 BC down to the present day, men who own cattle have been placing marks—cattle brands—on the hides of their animals to show ownership.

Before the days of extensive fencing, cattle intermingled freely. Even today, this is true in many instances. Brands are necessary if ranchers are to protect their livestock.

To have any value, brands are registered. In some states, registration is statewide. In others, as in Texas, registration is by county. Once a brand is accepted for registration, no other person in that state may use that brand.

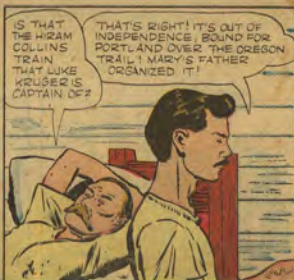












SOME DAYS LATER ALONG THE OREGON TRAIL—  
A RIBBON-GRAVEYARD FOR MEN AND EQUIPMENT  
WHO DARED TO BRAVE THE HAZARDS OF A NEW  
FRONTIER...

WE'VE COME A LONG  
WAY WITHOUT SPOTTIN'  
ANY INDIAN PATROLS,  
BOB!

THAT SUITS ME FINE,  
BUCK! WE SHOULD BE  
OVERTAKING THE  
COLLINS WAGON TRAIN  
SOON!



UH-OH, I SPOKE  
TOO SOON!  
SMOKE SIGNALS!

OH, NO!  
WHERE,  
BUCK?



SIOUX SMOKE  
TALK! SOMETHIN'  
ABOUT GREAT  
ROAD—THAT'S  
THE OREGON  
TRAIL!



CMON, I DON'T  
LIKE THE LOOKS  
OF THIS! WE'RE  
IN HOSTILE  
TERRITORY!

I—I HOPE WE  
DON'T RUN INTO  
ANY INDIANS  
BEFORE WE  
REACH THE  
CARAVAN!



SOUNDS LIKE  
TROUBLE UP  
AHEAD!

BOOM!  
BLAM!  
BOOM!











WHAT DO YOU MEAN, **DIFFERENT** ROUTE? I'M CAPTAIN OF THIS TRAIN, JONES! I AIN'T CHANGIN' NO ROUTE WITHOUT A MEETIN' OF TH' COUNCIL!

AFTER I EXPLAIN, I THINK THE COUNCIL WILL SEE IT MY WAY, LUKE!

WHY YOU SHOOTIN' GALAWAMPUS! I NEVER THOUGHT I'D SEE **YOU** IN THIS NECK O' TH' WOODS!

IT'S SURE GOOD TO SEE YOU AGAIN, SAGEBRUSH HOTCHKISS! BUT WHAT ARE **YOU** DOING HERE?

WHY, I'M WAGONMASTER O' THIS TRAIN, BUCK! I'M WORKIN' MY WAY TO OREGON!

GOOD FOR YOU, SAGE! LET'S GO SOMEPLACE WHERE WE CAN TALK!

THAT NIGHT...

TH' DANGED COUNCIL VOTED ME DOWN, SHANK! WE'RE GONNA TAKE JONES' ADVICE AN' CROSS TH' NORTH PLATTE NEAR RED BUTTES!

WHAT'S WRONG WITH THAT, KRUGER?

WHAT'S WRONG? EVERY-THING'S WRONG, YOU FOOL! RICKARD AN' HIS RENEGADES ARE SUPPOSED TO RAID US AT FIERY NARROWS, FURTHER SOUTH! YOU GOTTA RIDE TONIGHT AN' TELL RICKARD ABOUT TH' SWITCH!

HOW COME TH' INJUNS ATTACKED US IF RICKARD'S SO FRIENDLY WITH 'EM?

HA, IF THEY CAPTURED TH' TRAIN, THEY WOULDN'T HAVE TO **BUY** TH' LOOT FROM RICKARD! THEY'RE SLY FOXES!

TELL RICKARD TH' COLLINS TRAIN IS LOADED WITH STUFF THAT'LL BRING A GOOD PRICE FROM TH' SIOUX— INCLUDIN' PLENTY OF WHITE CAPTIVES!







THE NEXT MORNING, THE CREAKING WAGON TRAIN  
SKIRTS THE BEAR CREEK MOUNTAINS AND  
LUMBERS TOWARD RED BUTTES AND THE  
NORTH PLATTE...

C'MON, MOVE!  
HOORAW, HOORAW!  
MOVE! KEEP 'EM  
ROLLIN'!

ALL YORE YELLIN' AN'  
FUSSIN'! AIN'T GONNA  
MAKE THESE CRITTERS  
MOVE A MITE FASTER.  
KRUGER! THEY'RE  
FOOTSORE!

SHUT UP!  
KEEP 'EM  
MOVIN'! I'M  
STILL RUNNIN'  
THINGS AROUND  
HERE!

WONDER WHERE  
BUCK IS?

OH, HE AND  
FATHER WENT  
ON AHEAD TO  
SCOUT FOR  
BUFFALO, BOB!

GREAT SHOOTIN', BUCK!  
BILL CODY COULDN'T DO  
BETTER!

AW, NO RIFLE'S AS DEADLY AS BUFFALO.  
BILL'S FAVORITE GUN, **LUCRETIA BORGIA**.  
BUT I'LL STACK SILVER-B AGAINST HIS OLD PONY,  
**BRIGHAM**,  
ANY DAY!





BLUE COATS?  
DOES HE MEAN  
**SOLDIERS?**

YES! HMM, THAT'S  
STRANGE! TROOPERS  
WOULDN'T RAID  
PEACEFUL CROWS!



WHERE DO YOU  
GO NOW, YOUNG  
HUNTER?

TO FIND OUR BRAVES  
AND WARN THEM!  
PERHAPS WE SHALL  
ONCE AGAIN PUT ON  
WAR PAINT! I GO NOW!



HEY, COME BACK HERE! ...  
IT'S NO USE, HE'S GONE!  
BUT WE BETTER GET BACK  
TO THE TRAIN PRONTO!  
TROUBLE'S BREWIN'!

THERE'LL  
BE THE  
DICKENS  
TO PAY,  
IF YOU  
ASK ME!



IT MUST'VE BEEN  
A GREEN REGIMENT  
FROM THE EAST!

OR SOME  
STIFF-NECKED  
OFFICER WHO  
BELIEVES THAT  
THE ONLY GOOD INDIAN  
IS A DEAD INDIAN!



WELL, THERE'S THE  
WAGON TRAIN AND ...  
GREAT GUNS, ARE MY  
EYES PLAYIN' ME  
FALSE?

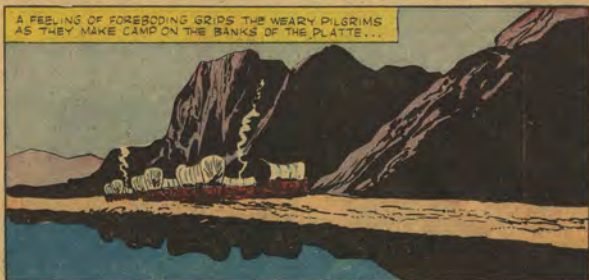
NOPE! THAT'S A  
CAVALRY DETACHMENT  
SUPPORTING THE  
TRAIN! HOORAY!  
WE'RE **SAFE** NOW!







A FEELING OF FOREBODING GRIPS THE WEARY PILGRIMS  
AS THEY MAKE CAMP ON THE BANKS OF THE PLATTE...



HUMPH! THEY  
DON'T EVEN  
ACT LIKE  
SOLDIERS!

I... I'M FRIGHTENED!  
IF THEY'RE REALLY  
THE WHITE RAIDERS,  
THEY MIGHT KILL US  
ALL!



I'VE A HUNCH THEY'LL  
STRIKE TONIGHT!  
THAT'S THE REASON  
FOR THEIR MASQUERADE—  
TO CATCH US OFF GUARD,  
FOR WE **DO** OUTNUMBER  
THEM!

I'M FER BLASTIN'  
TH' SKUNKS  
WHILE THEY  
SIT THERE  
STUFFIN'  
THEIR BELLIES!



WHAT'S **YOUR**  
PLAN, BUCK?

LISTEN CLOSELY!  
SAGE, YOU SNEAK OFF  
AND DRAIN THE WATER  
BARRELS ON EVERY  
WAGON! WE CAN REFILL  
'EM AT THE RIVER  
TOMORROW!



COLLINS, YOU ROUND UP THE  
BEST SHOTS IN THE TRAIN...  
HAVE THEM MEET AT **YOUR**  
WAGON! AND MARY, I HAVE A  
JOB FOR YOU! LISTEN...





PRESENTLY

PSST, RICKARD, HERE COMES  
THAT MEDDLIN' SCOUT!  
WE'VE GOT TO TAKE CARE OF  
HIM **FIRST!**

YOU'RE RIGHT  
FOR ONCE KRUGER!

LIEUTENANT, I'M GOIN TO STAND  
GUARD AT SPIRAL ROCK WHERE  
I CAN GET A GOOD VIEW OF THE  
COUNTRY'S DE! I'D SUGGEST YOU  
DETAIL OTHER GUARDS AROUND  
THE CAMP!

A GOOD SUGGESTION  
JONES! UH, IT'S ABOUT  
TIME WE ALL TURNED IN!  
WE GOTTA FORD THAT  
RIVER FIRST THING  
IN THE MORNING!

WE'LL RAID TH WAGONS  
SOON AS TH SETTLERS  
ARE ASLEEP. I WANT  
'EM ALL TAKEN **ALIVE!**  
THEY WON'T SUSPECT  
NOTHIN' TILL IT'S TOO  
LATE!

HMM, SO THAT'S  
WHY YOU BOUGHT  
TH UNIFORMS  
FROM TH SIOUX!

WHAT ABOUT JONES,  
RICKARD? HE'S  
LIABLE TO BE  
A WANDERL!

IT'S YOUR JOB  
TO SNEAK OUT  
TO SPIRAL ROCK  
AN' TAKE CARE OF  
HIM! YOUR SHOT'LL BE  
THE SIGNAL FOR US TO  
**STRIKE!**

THE REST OF YOU JASPERS  
CLIMB INTO YOUR BEDROLLS  
OUT NEAR THE REMUDA!  
I'LL WAKE YOU LATER!

AN' THEN TH'  
FUN STARTS.  
EH, RICKARD?  
HAW, HAW!

LATER

NOW THAT ALL OUR MEN  
HAVE THEIR INSTRUCTIONS  
I'LL MOSEY OFF TO SPIRAL  
ROCK LIKE I'M GOIN' TO  
STAND GUARD— BUT  
I'LL BE BACK!

AND THE  
WOMENFOLK  
ARE SAFE,  
BUCK! GOOD  
LUCK!



SURE IS QUIET OUT HERE...



TOO QUIET! AND I CAN  
SMELL INDIANS! HUH,  
WHAT A NIGHT!



AH, HERE COMES THAT  
DRATTED SCOUT NOW!  
WELL, I'M READY FOR 'IM!



HMM, I SAW MOONLIGHT  
REFLECTIN' ON METAL UP  
ON THAT LEDGE! BETTER  
SNEAK UP QUIETLY!  
SOMEBODY MAY BE WAITING  
THERE FOR ME!



BUT MAYBE IT WAS JUST  
MY IMAGINATION!















# BUCK JONES

THE  
BOX OF  
TROUBLE

FOUR MORE DAYS  
OF RIDIN', SILVER-B.  
AN' WE'LL BE HOME  
...UH-OH, WHAT'S  
THAT?

WELD!

A MAN...  
WOUNDED!

HURRY! I...  
I AIN'T GONNA  
LAST LONG!

GANG O' RIDERS JUMPED  
ME... I GOT AWAY...  
CRAWLED HERE AFTER  
MY HOSS BROKE  
HIS LEG!

BUT WHY  
DID THEY  
SHOOT YOU,  
OLD-TIMER?

THERE'S TEN THOUSAND  
DOLLARS IN THIS LITTLE  
STRONGBOX... THEY  
WANT IT... YOU TAKE  
IT... I AIN'T GONNA  
LAST —

I'LL GO  
FETCH  
A DOC!

NO... PUT BOX IN  
HAY IN BARN AT  
LAZY-B RANCH...  
THREE MILES EAST  
O' CASTLE ROCK...  
SHOOT PADLOCK  
OFF AN'...  
AHHHH...

WHAT ELSE? WHO  
ARE YOU PLEASE  
TRY TO TELL ME  
A LITTLE MORE!











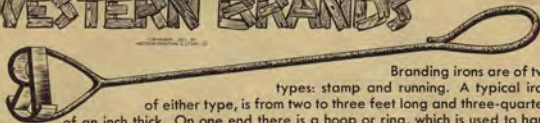




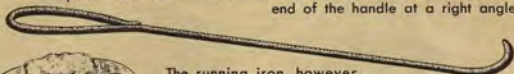




# WESTERN BRANDS



Branding irons are of two types: stamp and running. A typical iron, of either type, is from two to three feet long and three-quarters of an inch thick. On one end there is a hoop or ring, which is used to hang up the iron when it is not in use. The stamp iron has a stamp set at the end of the handle at a right angle.



A DOUBLE UNDERBIT



A CROPPED EAR

The running iron, however, has no stamp and is curved or "fishhooked" at the end.

Sometimes cattle are earmarked. Although this practice is not used as extensively as branding, it is also a way of showing ownership. Several different methods of earmarking cattle are used. A "crop" is an earmark made by cutting one-half of the animal's ear off smoothly straight from the upper side. A "double overbit" is made by cutting two triangular pieces from the upper part of an animal's ear. A "double underbit" is the reverse of the procedure. Two triangular bits are cut from the under part of an animal's ear. Sometimes an animal is both earmarked and branded.



Some of the most famous brands in the country are interesting because of the imagination shown in their creation. The famous 6666 was born when a man named S. Burk Burnett won a fortune in cattle and land with a poker hand of four 6's. Settlers from Iowa recalled their home by using the brand IOA, while Ohioans chose OIO. A former citizen of Essex, England selected SX for his brand.

Whatever the brand used, the humor, courage, and love of life inherent in the people who settled the West was always reflected.



CROSS FOUR BARS



QUARTER CIRCLE HEART



HATCHET



ROCKING CHAIR



